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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Argentina

DATE: 25X1X

INFO. (see report)

SUBJECT Recall of Soviet Ambassador Sergueev

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PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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order of 16 October 1978 from the
Central Intelligence to the
Archives of the United States.

On 16 September 1947 the Soviet Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Mikhail Gregorievitch Sergueev, held a conference of over an hour's duration with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Juan Atilio Bramuglia. On 20 September the press officially announced that Sergueev had been recalled to Moscow for consultations and for leave. Two independent sources with contacts in Slav circles have reported the following reasons for the recall of the Ambassador.

1. On 23 September the first source reported that Sergueev was planning to leave for Moscow by ship within two weeks and that his wife and daughters would leave with him. Source reported that Sergueev would be gone for several months and that it was not known definitely whether he would return to Argentina. Even if he should return, his wife and daughters will remain in Russia. Source stated that the Soviets have been particularly annoyed at Mrs. Cantoni, the wife of the Argentine Ambassador to Moscow, who has allegedly made uncomplimentary remarks about the Soviet Union and who has refused to live in Moscow. Only recently Cantoni announced in Moscow that he was going to make an extensive tour of the European continent and would be absent from Moscow for several months.
2. The first source also reported that the Soviets would probably keep Sergueev in Moscow as long as Cantoni remains away from Moscow.
3. Source finally stated that during the conference with Bramuglia, Sergueev is reported to have broached the question of Argentina's position vis-a-vis the United States-Soviet differences. Bramuglia is said to have informed Sergueev that Argentina would do all she could to try to bring the United States and Russia together.
4. The first source has reported that during Sergueev's absence, Igor M. Budarin, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, will be in charge of the Soviet diplomatic mission. Budarin has been the Soviet diplomat who has had most contact with Slav groups since the departure from Buenos Aires of Valentin Riabov.
5. A second source contacted a member of the Argentine Communist Party who is a staff member of the Slav Communist organ Union Eslava and obtained the following information:
 - a. Sergueev has been concerned over the international situation for some time. He has been particularly concerned at Argentina's drift towards the American orbit and the attitude of "protection" Argentina has taken towards Polish and Yugoslav immigrants whom the Russians consider war criminals. (Large

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numbers of Ustachis and anti-Communist Poles have been arriving in Argentina, and more are enroute.)

- b. Sergueev has been unable to obtain a definite commitment from Argentina regarding a Soviet-Argentine trade treaty, and he feels that Argentine-Soviet relations have become more delicate following President Peron's recent speeches attacking Communism.
6. The second source believes that the above factors have motivated Sergueev's recall, and that the Soviet Ambassador will not return to Buenos Aires. This source points out that Sergueev is apparently making arrangements to take almost all his effects back to Russia with him.
7. The second source added that in local Slav circles Sergueev is considered to be one of Stalin's trusted men. During the Spanish Civil War, while he was stationed in Milan, Sergueev checked on the movements of Italian submarines which might have been aiding Franco. He was later Attache and Charge d'Affaires in Greece, and when Germany invaded Russia, he joined the Red Army and was named Chief of the European Section of the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs. In 1945 he was Soviet Ambassador to Belgium.
8. The second source also reported that there is much concern in the Slav Union over Sergueev's departure and the repercussions that may result.

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Comment: Although sources are not entirely in agreement on the reasons for Sergueev's recall, it is apparent that he is not returning to Moscow merely for consultation and to take a vacation. He has been in Argentina only a year, having presented his credentials on 12 September 1946. The fact that he is returning by ship indicates that Moscow is in no hurry to "consult" him about the situation in Argentina. Soviet annoyance with the Cantonis may, in fact, be the principal reason for Sergueev's return, although other factors, such as the present anti-Communist campaign in Argentina and Sergueev's personal unpopularity there, may also be involved.

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